

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An image formation ~~apparatus~~ method comprising:

~~an image holder having a surface;~~

~~a latent image formation unit that forms~~ forming an electrostatic latent image on the surface of ~~[[the]]~~ an image holder;

~~a developing unit that develops~~ developing the electrostatic latent image by using a charged toner; and

~~an image receiving unit to which~~ transferring a toner image ~~[[on]]~~ from the image holder ~~is to be transferred onto an image-receiving unit by applying a transfer bias to the image receiving unit;~~

~~a transferring unit that applies a transfer bias to the image receiving unit to transfer the toner image onto the image receiving unit;~~

wherein an amount of the transfer bias is set such that potential differences between surface potentials of an image section and a non-image section of the image holder and a surface potential of the image-receiving unit generate a discharging at the image section and do not generate a discharging at the non-image section.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The image formation ~~apparatus~~ method according to claim 1,

wherein the image-receiving unit is an intermediate transfer unit that transfers a primary-transfer toner image on the image holder onto a transfer material as a secondary transfer.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The image formation ~~apparatus~~ method according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising:

setting a surface potential V_{t1} of the image-receiving unit ~~is set~~ to satisfy

$$|V_i - V_{t1}| < V_d, |V_b - V_{t1}| > V_d$$

where, V_d represents a potential difference at which a discharging is started between two objects in the environment of forming an image, V_i represents a surface potential of the image section on the image holder, and V_b represents a surface potential of the non-image section on the electrostatic latent image.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The image formation ~~apparatus~~ method according to claim 2,

wherein the following relationships are satisfied

$$|V_i - V_{t2}| < V_d + |V_{t3}|, |V_b - V_{t2}| > V_d + |V_{t3}|$$

where, V_d represents a potential difference at which a discharging is started between two objects in the environment of forming an image, V_i represents a surface potential of the image section on the image holder, V_b represents a surface potential of the non-image section on the image holder, V_{t2} represents a potential applied to the primary transfer section of the intermediate transfer unit, and V_{t3} represents an attenuation of a potential difference due to the intermediate transfer unit.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The image formation ~~apparatus~~ method according to claim 3, ~~wherein~~ further comprising:

setting the potential difference V_d , at which a discharging is started between two objects in the environment of forming an image, ~~is set~~ to 320 V.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The image formation ~~apparatus~~ method according to claim 2,

wherein a material that constitutes the intermediate transfer unit has a volume resistance of 1×10^3 to $10^{10} \Omega \text{ cm}$.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The image formation ~~apparatus~~ method according to claim 4,

wherein a material that constitutes the intermediate transfer unit has a volume resistance of 1×10^3 to $10^{10} \Omega \text{ cm}$.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The image formation ~~apparatus~~ method according to claim 1, ~~the image formation apparatus further comprising:~~

~~a potential difference amplifying unit that amplifies~~ amplifying a potential difference between the image section and the non-image section of the image holder prior to the transfer of the toner image onto the image-receiving unit.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The image formation ~~apparatus~~ method according to claim 8,

wherein ~~the potential difference amplifying unit amplifies~~ the potential difference is amplified by irradiating a beam onto the toner image after the surface of the image holder has been re-charged.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The image formation ~~apparatus~~ method according to claim 1,

wherein the developing unit is a wet-type developing unit that develops an electrostatic latent image formed on the image holder, by using a liquid developing agent.